

☀️ FAMILY DEVOTIONAL READING (MATTHEW 16)

Jesus often called Himself the “Son of Man,” a title from Daniel 7 describing someone who would one day receive authority over all things. But Jesus taught His disciples something surprising: His path to that authority would not come through power or force, but through suffering, death, and resurrection.

The crucifixion wasn’t just a tragic ending—it was the very way God chose to save us. Jesus’ death accomplished what nothing else could:

- It paid for our sins so we could be close to God.
- It showed us how to live—by serving instead of seeking our own glory.
- It fulfilled Scripture’s promises of a Savior who would suffer for His people.
- It created a new family of believers where walls between people are torn down.

The cross reminds us that God’s love is stronger than sin, death, and even our own selfishness. And the resurrection reminds us that following Jesus—even when it looks hard—is always worth it.

💬 FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS YOUNG KIDS (AGES 4–7)

👉 **Focus: Jesus gave His life for us.**

Question: Jesus said He came “to serve.”

What’s one way you could serve someone in our family this week?

OLDER KIDS (AGES 8–12)

👉 **Focus: Jesus shows real leadership by serving.**

Question: Why do you think Jesus chose to be a servant instead of a powerful king? How does that change the way we think about being great?

TEENS (AGES 13–17)

👉 **Focus: Following Jesus means sacrifice and service.**

Question: Jesus says we should take up our cross and follow Him. What might that look like for you at school, with friends, or online?

ADULTS

👉 **Focus: Living cross-shaped lives.**

Question: Jesus’ death not only saves us but also calls us into a life of service. What’s one area where God might be asking you to set aside comfort or self-interest to serve like Christ?

🎨 SHORT FAMILY ACTIVITY: “CROSS-SHAPED SERVICE”

Supplies (optional): Paper & markers

1. Draw a large cross on a piece of paper.
2. Inside the cross, each family member writes (or says aloud) one way they can serve someone else this week—at home, school, work, or in the neighborhood.
3. Place the paper somewhere visible (fridge, kitchen table, etc.) as a reminder that Jesus’ death not only saves us but shapes how we live.

No supplies version: Each person simply shares their idea aloud, and the family prays for strength to do it during the week.